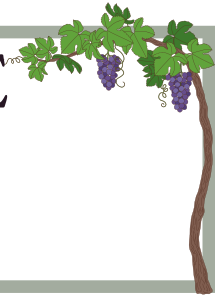


CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Montessori Faith Formation for children



**WHAT IF EVERY CHILD COULD HAVE TIME AND SPACE
SPECIALLY SET ASIDE FOR AN ENCOUNTER WITH
CHRIST?**

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a time-tested approach to faith formation. It feeds the deepest needs of children, allowing each one to get to know God personally.

In a retreat-like atmosphere, through the use of special materials designed just for them, children hear the Word proclaimed and grow in their relationship with God.

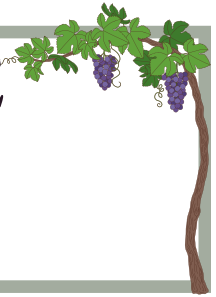
The most essential treasures of the Christian faith, from scripture and liturgy, touch the heart of each child and lead to deep contemplation, prayer, and joy.





CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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LEVEL 1 (3-6 YEARS OLD)

In the Level 1 Atrium, 'Good Shepherd' catechesis, children discover... God is love, Jesus is risen, and we are His sheep.

- Children enjoy biblical accounts of events such as the birth of Jesus and the Last Supper, to proclaim that Jesus was a real person who lived in a specific place in time.
- Children encounter elements of the liturgy, to encourage understanding and thoughtful participation.
- Children partake of prayer opportunities, alone and in community, for enjoyment of God's gifts.
- They contemplate parables that allow them to ponder the mystery of Kingdom of God, especially the call to joyful relationship with Jesus, the Good Shepherd.



LEVEL 2 (STARTING AT 6 YEARS OLD)

As children move into Level 2, firm in their relationship with God, they wonder ... What is God's plan? What is my role in God's plan?

In response,

- They hear about God's Plan of Salvation as shown to us in the Bible
- They contemplate the gifts that human beings have received from God through time.
- They develop their moral intelligence by considering the parables Jesus told of mercy and justice, as well as his moral guidelines
- They discover their role in God's plan and their own place in the community of believers - the church
- They acquire the tools to enable them to access the Word of God (Bible) and the prayers of the church in the rites of Eucharist, Baptism and Reconciliation.

THE ATRIUM

“THE PREPARED ENVIRONMENT IS CALLED THE ‘ATRIUM’... IT IS A PLACE OF SPIRITUAL RETREAT... IN WHICH WORK EASILY BECOMES PRAYER... A PLACE OF WORSHIP WHERE CHILDREN AND ADULTS CELEBRATE THE WORD TOGETHER”

- Sofia Cavalletti, *“Characteristics of the Good Shepherd Catechesis”*

An atrium is sacred space. It is set apart for children so that they may grow in their relationship with God. The environment is specially prepared to nurture young children in the Christian faith. It is less of a classroom and more of a place of communal contemplation and worship.

Sensory materials are based on the three pillars of our Christian faith:

- the Bible,
- Prayer, and
- the Liturgy,

and introduces the eight categories of our faith:

- Life in the Church
- Mysteries of the Incarnation
- Mystery of Time
- Prophecies and Infancy Narratives
- Mysteries of the Kingdom of God (parables)
- The Paschal Mystery
- The Eucharist Gestures
- Sacraments



IMMACULATE CGS TEAM

Ruth Ann McClure, CGS Catechist

- B.Ed. Elementary Special Ed. Major
- 25+ years teaching
- CGS Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 Catechist
- Memberships: Canadian and USA CGS Association

Maura Baklinski, Administrator 613-756-3564

*Volunteers are welcome and needed!



Registration

immaculatepeterborough.ca/cgs

Fee \$150 per child

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